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## THE HOSPITALS OF PARIS.

[See page 72.]

### HOPITAL DE LA PITIE.

THIS hospital, situated close to the Garden of Plants, is composed of several ranges of buildings, enclosing large airy courts, in which the convalescents enjoy the benefits of exercise. It was opened in the year 1809, as an appendix to the *Hotel Dieu*, but rapidly rose in importance; and has, by the talents of its surgeon-in-chief, gained the reputation of being one of the best which a student can attend.

The number of beds is 624, and about 8400 patients are annually treated. The surgeons are MM. Lisfranc and Velpeau. The former, better known by what he has done than what he has written, has the merit of having, as it were, created in Paris the School of Operative Surgery, and of having made improvements of great value in most of the operative processes employed. M. Lisfranc delivers clinical lectures every day in the week, and every now and then treats of diseases of the uterus, a subject upon which he has conceived some ingenious ideas. He was in the habit of introducing the speculum once a week into all his female patients, and showing the state of the os uteri to the numerous pupils who follow his visit.

The junior surgeon, M. Velpeau, now clinical professor to the faculty, lectures every day also, at half-past seven o'clock in the morning.

The physicians attached to the hospital of *La Pitié* are, Messrs. Serres, Andral, Louis, Clement, and Parent-Duchatelet, most of them distinguished men. M. Serres has made a name for himself by his works on the pathology and anatomy of the nervous system, and by his discoveries in transcendent anatomy; he is about (we hear) to publish a complete work on the pathological anatomy of the nervous system.

M. Andral, professor of internal pathology to the faculty, if not the most brilliant of professors, is certainly one of the most distinguished physicians in Europe, few of whom can cope with him in a knowledge of pathological anatomy, and especially in the art of forming a correct diagnosis of disease. The clinical productions of M. Andral are well known to most of our readers. Indeed, we have nothing in English literature which can be compared with them, if we except the similar production of Dr. Abercrombie, whose treatise on diseases of the brain, &c. even the French themselves allow to equal M. Andral's last volume.

The practice of M. Andral in the *Hopital la Pitié* always affords something replete with interest. He has already made an extensive range of experiments with the contra-stimulants, and has just terminated a

similar essay with purgative medicines, the result of which we may probably, at a future period, make public.

M. Louis is the favorite professor of the English and Americans, of whom indeed his class is almost exclusively composed. He is reputed to be the physician best versed in diseases of the chest, which he has made his special study ; he delivers clinical lectures during the spring and summer months.

Of MM. Parent-Duchatelet and Clement, we know nothing particular. The former has published some excellent papers on public hygiene and legal medicine.

#### HOPITAL DE LA CHARITE.

This hospital, situated in the rue Jacob, on the left bank of the Seine, but not close to the river, like the *Hotel Dieu*, was founded in 1607. It contains nearly 500 beds ; the average number of patients treated is from five to six thousand, and the mortality amounts to about fourteen for each 100 patients.

The surgeons of *La Charité* are M. Roux and M. Guerbois, a military surgeon, who has been lately appointed to the vacancy left by the death of Boyer.

M. Roux, one of the professors of clinical surgery to the faculty, is considered one of the best operators in the French capital, though, from some reason or other, his patients generally die. We cannot say from experience that the after treatment of M. Roux is decidedly bad, but he operates on many patients who have been considered *unfit* by Baron Dupuytren at the *Hotel Dieu*. M. Roux prefers the method of continued extension to that of position in cases of fracture, as employed at the *Hotel Dieu*, and he invariably extracts the cataract ; he is peculiarly famous for the dexterity with which he performs this latter operation ; indeed we saw him extract nineteen lenses at one sitting, and left the amphitheatre when six more cases remained for operation. M. Roux has improved surgery by his methods of uniting the divided palate and ruptured perineum. In the first of these operations, which he has performed now sixty-four times, he has been peculiarly fortunate. We have said that operations are much more frequent at *La Charité* than at the *Hotel Dieu*, considering the number of patients. Thus, in the year 1822, when the number of surgical cases amounted only to 800, there were,—amputations, 44 ; cataracts, 43 ; fistula in ano, 32 ; strangulated hernia, 14 ; lithotomy, 14.

The physicians of *La Charité* are, MM. Fouquier, Lerminier, Rollier, and Rayer. M. Fouquier, one of the clinical professors of medicine to the faculty, though little known by his writings, enjoys a high practical reputation ; unlike the other professors, he gives his clinique at the bed-side of the patient. Though, in some measure, a believer in the Broussain doctrines, M. Fouquier teaches the existence of essential fevers ; he was one of the first to try and recommend the use of nux vomica in paralysis, and he has also made some interesting experiments on the action of urea on the urinary system.

M. Rayer, author of a work on diseases of the skin, is about to pro-

duce a new work on the same subject, accompanied by a series of plates, illustrating the whole of these diseases.

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HOPITAL ST. LOUIS.

This hospital, situated at the extremity of the faubourg du Temple, was founded under Henri IV. It is destined exclusively to the reception of patients affected with skin diseases, scrofula, and rheumatism. The number of patients admitted during the year is about 6000 ; but, in addition, there is a kind of dispensary attached to the hospital, where external patients receive advice, medicine, and tickets for baths and fumigations. The treatment of tinea is exclusively confided here, as in the other hospitals of Paris, to the brothers Mahon, and the number of external patients affected with the disease amounts yearly to 8000. The hospital contains 72 baths, 15 large apparatuses for fumigating, and a large chamber containing vapor-baths, &c. The main part of the treatment at this hospital consists in the administration of baths, and fumigation with various substances : thus, during the year 1833, there were given to the house patients, baths, 5141 ; fumigations, 8882 ; douches, 4515. Total, 18,539. For the dispensary patients, baths, 43,760 ; fumigations, 37,118 ; douches, 1726. Total, 82,604.

The mortality of this hospital is naturally feeble, being about 1 in 16. The average duration of treatment is 60 days.

The surgical part contains 186 beds, distributed between M. Riche-rand, author of the physiology, M. Jobert, and M. Gerdy, who was lately elected by concours as professor of surgical pathology. The physicians are, MM. Emery, Alibert, Lugol, Bielt, and Manry.

The head physician, M. Alibert, professor of materia medica to the faculty, has a ward of 65 beds, containing the female patients. During summer he lectures on diseases of the skin every Wednesday at ten o'clock, and shows a great variety of most interesting cases. His magnificent plates on skin diseases are well known to every one, but, unfortunately, are too dear for most pupils.

M. Lugol has 82 beds, containing the scrofulous patients, where his peculiar treatment may be observed.

M. Bielt also gives a clinique on skin diseases : he has the male patients, amounting to 112.

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HOPITAL ST. ANTOINE.

This establishment, situated in a remote and poor neighborhood, is but little frequented for instruction. It contains 262 beds. The surgeon is M. Berard, Professor of Physiology to the faculty. The physicians are, MM. Kapeler, Gueyraud, and Mailly.

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HOPITAL BEAUJON.

This small hospital contains 166 beds. The physicians are MM. Renaudin and Martin-Solon. The surgeons are MM. Marjolin and Blandin. The number of patients affected with colica pictonum received into this hospital is usually very great, on account of its neighborhood to the extensive white-lead manufacture at Clichy. Its treatment is perfectly opposite to that employed at *La Charité*, and is called "the

method la charité." M. Martin-Solon commences with a purgative, composed of *Jal.* 12 gr.; *Sulph. Sodæ* 3iv.; *Mannæ* 3i.: in the evening a purgative lavement; and an hour after, an ounce of the syrup of diacodium. The same medicines are repeated the next day, and the treatment generally effects a cure in five or six days.

#### HOPITAL COCHIN,

A small hospital in the rue St. Jacques, containing 105 beds. The physicians are MM. Gendrin and Jadioux. The surgeon is M. Boyer, son, we believe, of the late Baron.

#### HOPITAL NECKER,

Founded in 1779, by Madame Necker, contains 124 beds. The medical service is confided to MM. Bricheteau and Delaroque: the surgeon is M. Laugier. The administration general have given M. Civiale a ward in which calculous patients are exclusively treated by the method of lithotritry; for if we are to believe not only what is reported but written, the administration have been compelled to forbid M. Civiale to practise the operation of lithotomy, he has been so unsuccessful. According to the statements of M. Civiale, the success attending lithotritry by the method of brayement employed at this hospital has been very great; but as his statements have not been confirmed in the report made by MM. Larrey and Double, we refrain from repeating them here.

#### HOPITAL DES ENFANS MALADES.

Before the year 1802, the sick children were mixed in the different hospitals with adult patients; since that period, the council-general has appropriated a special establishment for the treatment of patients below the age of sixteen years. The *Hopital des Enfants Malades*, situated in a healthy faubourg, at the end of the rue de Sevres, is composed of four parallel ranges of building, inclosing a large square, which is laid out as a garden. It contains 560 beds; 491 for the medical and 69 for the surgical patients. The number of children annually received into this hospital, averages about 2500, and care is taken to separate those affected with contagious diseases from the other patients; at least, the children affected with scabies are placed in a separate building; but those laboring under smallpox, measles, and scarlatina, are not isolated. We believe the experiment of placing the smallpox patients in a separate ward was tried for some years, but the mortality of the disease was found to be considerably augmented by this precaution. Indeed the general mortality in the hospital is great, and may be averaged at 1 for 4.50. In cases of smallpox, the deaths are to the cures as 1 to 2.15; and in measles as 1 to between 3 and 4: and the mortality in acute internal diseases as 1 to 3.42. Thus in the year 1822, there were received 2611 patients, who may be arranged under the following heads, viz.

#### Boys.

	Acute Diseases.		Chronic.
Medical affections . . . . .	819	Scrofula . . . . .	51
Surgical ditto . . . . .	209	Tinea . . . . .	46
Smallpox . . . . .	51	Scabies . . . . .	304

*Girls.*

	Acute.		Chronic.
Medical . . . . .	777	Scrofula . . . . .	16
Surgical . . . . .	87	Tinea . . . . .	56
Smallpox . . . . .	42	Scabies . . . . .	153

Of these, 709 patients died within a period varying from twenty-four hours to two years. For the itch, the period of cure varies from twenty-one to sixty-nine days ; for tinea, the average time is 156 ; and for scrofula, 288 days. The physicians of the *Enfants Malades* are MM. Jadelot, Guersent, and Baudelocque ; the surgeon is M. Baffos.

The boys, girls, and scrofulous patients of both sexes, are severally placed in a different part of the building, and each physician has the charge of advising for four months in the year, after which he passes to another.

The treatment pursued at the *Hopital des Enfants Malades* is of a very simple kind ; and except in acute inflammations of some of the great viscera or their lining membranes, active remediants are very seldom had recourse to. The writer has been in constant attendance on the practice of MM. Guersent and Baudelocque for the space of two years, and has seldom or never seen anything like an active purgative medicine administered. Calomel, the great favorite of many English practitioners, is rarely given, except in acute inflammation of the cerebral meninges, or croup, and then with very little confidence in its efficacy. Every patient who dies in this hospital is carefully examined after death ; hence, the precise nature of the disease is in most cases ascertained, and we must confess that a great majority of the post-mortem examinations confirm the opinion entertained by the physicians, viz. that two-thirds of the children who die, are cut off by inflammation (generally chronic) of the chest or abdomen. Hence the expectant method, as we would call it ; leechings with the use of revulsives, and strict attention to the bowels, are more in vogue than the repeated purging which we have seen employed in England. Perhaps hospital may differ essentially from private practice ; and the forms of disease which prevail where many individuals are assembled together, may vary from those seen in isolated cases ; however this may be, we are certain, from extensive observation, confirmed by a multitude of autopsies, that in numerous cases which in England would be called atrophica, indigestion, diarrhœa, worms, &c. or any other name expressing rather the theory of a school than the diagnosis of a physician, the original cause of the disease resides in a chronic inflammation or ulceration of the intestinal canal. In cases of smallpox and measles, two-thirds of the children who die (at least in hospitals) are cut off by inflammation of the respiratory organs ; hence the medical officers of this hospital are peculiarly careful to examine the state of the lungs in patients laboring under the above-mentioned diseases, and apply themselves to combat the inflammatory affection, the symptoms of which are often very obscure, with energy and perseverance. We have seen M. Baudelocque employ the white oxide of antimony with considerable success in cases where the reduced state of the little patient would have rendered any abstraction of blood hazardous.

Although the *Hopital des Enfants Malades* affords the finest opportunity in Europe for the study of diseases of children, it is curious that it has not as yet given rise to the production of any complete system or work on those diseases. Billiard was a pupil of the *Enfants Trouves*, and his work, imperfect as it is, in the therapeutical part, is confined to the affections of children below two years of age. M. Guersent, from whose immense experience we should have a right to expect a complete work, enjoys, we fear, too extensive a practice to permit him to write; he has, however, produced various articles, in the *Dictionary* of twenty-one volumes, which merit the attention of every medical man.

M. Baudelocque has also taken advantage of the opportunities afforded in the scrofulous wards. By a long series of experiments, he has determined the comparative merits of all those medicines called anti-scrofulous, and if he has not succeeded in completely unveiling the nature of scrofula, he has at least the merit of having demonstrated the circumstances under which it is developed.

[To be continued.]

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#### ACUTE RHEUMATISM.—CONSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.

FROM PROF. THOMSON'S LECTURES AT THE NORTH LONDON HOSPITAL.

GENTLEMEN,—Since my last lecture, four cases of acute rheumatism have been admitted under my care into this hospital, and I believe my colleague Dr. Elliotson has also taken in some cases of this disease. The number of such cases is not remarkable at this season of the year, for although the disease appears at all times, yet it more especially makes its attack in autumn. It is not easy to account for this fact, unless we suppose that the changes of season operate upon the body nearly in the same manner as changes of climate. Thus we know that when a person passes from a dry and genial, or moderately warm climate, to one which is humid and relaxing; and more especially if this humidity be accompanied by a low temperature, congestions of blood take place in the larger vessels, the body becomes susceptible of the impression of moisture in a remarkable degree, and agues, rheumatism, and similar diseases, are produced.

Among the cases of this disease which I have taken in, one is in a state of convalescence, and will be discharged before we again meet; it is that of *Hannah Susans*, a maid servant, eighteen years of age, who was admitted on the 7th of December. This woman is of a sanguine temperament and a spare habit of body, and she says that she has generally enjoyed good health. She was attacked four days previous to her admission into the hospital with shiverings, succeeded by heat, with little perspiration, and these returned in successive paroxysms for two days, accompanied by dull aching pains in the joints, which increased so much in violence that she was forced to leave her place and return home to her friends, who procured medical advice for her. She says that she received much benefit from the treatment pursued; but, as the pains increased in violence, and she could procure no sleep on their account at

night, she came into the hospital. She attributes her complaint to sleeping in damp sheets.

Now this, or indeed the application of moisture and cold to the surface of the body in any manner, is one of the most frequent sources of acute rheumatism. But many individuals may be exposed to cold and moisture without suffering from acute rheumatism ; thence a question arises—Is a certain condition of the body, a predisposition, necessary before this disease can supervene on the application of these exciting causes ? In the case before us, I have not been able to ascertain the existence of any hereditary predisposition, which undoubtedly may be regarded as frequently rendering the system prone to be roused by any excitement into inflammatory action. Our patient is of a spare habit ; there is no general hyperæmia, or excess of the circulating fluid ; but, in her occupation, that of a servant, she was exposed to irregular heats and chills ; and, consequently, retiring to a damp bed, whilst probably in a state of perspiration, it is easy to conceive that the atony which the application of the cold and moisture would produce in the cuticular capillaries, extending by sympathy to the rest of the circulating system, would produce a congestion in the larger vessels. It is the effort of the conservative power of the constitution to overcome this state that produces the phenomena of the febrile paroxysm, and by the unequal distribution of the blood probably sets up the inflammatory action in the joints which constitutes this form of disease. Be this as it may, there can be no doubt that, in almost every case of acute rheumatism, as in that which is under consideration, the febrile symptoms precede the attack of pain ; and consequently the latter may be regarded as one of the indications of the presence of a peculiar fever, with as much reason as we regard the eruption of smallpox, or that of scarlatina, as obvious symptoms of peculiar fevers.

At the time of her admission, the patient complained chiefly of severe pains of the knees, joints, and elbows, which frequently moved from one limb to another, and were always increased by warmth and at night. She also complained of slight pain on pressure over the epigastrium ; the tongue was furred ; the pulse 100, and hard ; the bowels were regular, and the urine was natural. The catamenia had been absent for three months. This last circumstance, as the patient was not pregnant, displayed a derangement of health, and no doubt tended to render her more susceptible of the impression of the exciting cause than she otherwise would have been. She was ordered to take one grain of *calomel*, one of *tartar emetic*, and one and a half of *opium*, every eighth hour ; and in the intervals ʒi. of the *wine of colchicum*, with gr. xv. of *magnesia* in f. ʒij. of water. It may be necessary to mention here my reason for combining the *magnesia* and the *wine of colchicum*, an union by no means uncommon. In my practice it arises from a conviction, that much of the benefit of *colchicum* is due to its action on the orifices of the gall and pancreatic ducts in the duodenum, bringing into the gut the redundant secretion which always takes place in those important glands in a febrile condition of the habit ; and, by carrying them out of the system, getting rid of one source of irritation, and enabling the circulation to proceed with more freedom and regularity. Now, when much acid exists in the stomach, the *colchicum* becomes too active, and passes too rapidly through

the duodenum ; so that, removing this by the addition of the magnesia, we can with more certainty reckon upon its influence being exerted on the orifices of those important ducts which open into the first gut, and the emptying of which is of so much importance. Our patient found great relief from this treatment, which was continued with little variation until the 10th, when the pains returned with as much violence as ever. The tongue, which had been previously cleansing, became again loaded ; but the pulse did not increase to more than 84, and was small and sharp. She was ordered gr. viij. of *calomel*, and a brisk cathartic to be taken about an hour afterwards, and to continue her pills and mixture after the bowels had been well purged. Notwithstanding this active treatment, the febrile symptoms and pains increased during the two following days, and, in the afternoon of the second day, she complained of severe pain in the back of the neck, and in the occiput. Finding that the sedative plan of treatment alone was not succeeding, I ordered her to be bled to the extent of twelve ounces, and to take immediately afterwards a pill containing a grain of *calomel*, a grain of *tartar emetic*, and two and a half grains of *opium*, and to repeat this, if the pain should continue, every sixth hour. This method of following bloodletting by a large dose of opium with *calomel*, often supersedes the further use of the lancet. It operates in two ways ; the *calomel* carried into the system stimulates the inactive capillaries, converting morbid into healthy action ; whilst the secondary influence of the opium tends to allay that irritable state of the nervous system which always is more or less present under the condition of the frame which accompanies rheumatic fever, and which is justly regarded as the pabulum, if I may so express myself, of inflammation. To prevent the recurrence, however, of the pains, I resolved also to take advantage of the contra-stimulant influence of *tartar emetic* in moderate doses, and therefore ordered gr. i. to be administered in solution every sixth hour. She has had no return of pain, she sleeps quietly, and complains of nothing except debility. She is now taking three grains of the *bisulphate of quinine* three times a day, and if she gain strength she will be fit to leave the hospital in two or three days.

You will perceive, Gentlemen, in the treatment of this case, and you will observe it in many future cases treated here, that no attention was paid to the local part of the disease, the remedies being directed solely to the relief of the constitutional disorder ; and you will reconcile this to the opinion which I have previously advanced, that the local pains are so completely symptomatic or dependent on the febrile disturbance, that the speedy reduction of this by vigorous measures invariably removes the pains without any local treatment. In the early part of my professional career, it was very much the custom to employ repellent embrocations in rheumatism ; but the result of this practice was frequently the migration of the pains from joint to joint ; and, occasionally, I have seen the inflammation transferred, by metastasis, from a joint to the heart, the stomach, or the brain, and a case terminate fatally, which, by general management alone, might have been successfully carried on to a favorable issue. I have no hesitation, therefore, in strenuously recommending you, in all cases of acute rheumatism, to leave the relief of the local affection to the influence of the constitutional treatment.—*Lancet*.



## INSANITY, PRODUCED BY MASTURBATION.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

No cause is more influential in producing Insanity, and, in a special manner, perpetuating the disease, than Masturbation. The records of the institutions give an appalling catalogue of cases attributed to this cause; and yet such records do not show nearly all the cases which are justly ascribable to it. For it is so obscure, and so secret in its operation, that the friends in almost all cases are wholly ignorant of it. It is in a few cases only, where the practice of the vice becomes shamefully notorious, that friends are willing to allow its agency in the production of any disease, particularly insanity; and yet no cause operates more directly upon the mind and the feeling. The mental energies are prostrated by the habit in innumerable cases, long before the delusions of insanity appear. Indeed there are many cases, in which insanity does not intervene between the incipient stages of that mental and physical imbecility, which comes early upon the victim of masturbation, and the most deplorable and hopeless idiocy, in which it frequently results.

This is perhaps peculiar to this cause of idiocy. I know of no other which does not produce the ravings and illusions of insanity, or the gloomy musings, agitations and alarms of melancholy, before the mind is lost in idiotism. But the victim of masturbation passes from one degree of imbecility to another, till all the powers of the system, mental, physical and moral, are blotted out forever!

This is not, however, always the case. In some individuals there is all the raving of the most furious mania, or the deep and cruel torture of hapless melancholy, before the mind is obliterated and the energies of the system forever prostrated.

There are other circumstances attending the insanity from masturbation, which render this the most distressing form of mental disease. I allude to the difficulty of breaking up the habit while laboring under this malady. When insanity is once produced by it, it is nearly hopeless, because the cause of disease is redoubled and generally perpetuated. The libidinous desires are greatly increased, and the influence of self-restraint cannot be brought sufficiently into action to prevent the constant, daily, and I might say almost hourly recurrence of the practice. Thus the cause is perpetuated; and in spite of every effort, the disease increases, the powers of body and mind fail together, and are lost in the most deplorable, hopeless, disgusting fatuity! And yet the practice is not abandoned. All the remaining energies of animal life seem to be concentrated in these organs, and all the remaining power of gratification left is in the exercise of this no longer secret, but loathsome and beastly habit.

Those cases of insanity arising from other known causes, in which masturbation is a symptom, are rendered more hopeless by this circumstance. It is a counteracting influence to all the means of cure employed, either moral or medicinal, and coinciding as it does with whatever other causes may have had an agency in producing disease, renders the case almost hopeless. Of the number of the insane that have come under the observation of the writer (and that number is not small), few,

very few have recovered, who have been in the habit of this evil practice ; and still fewer, I might say almost none, have recovered, in which insanity or idiocy has followed the train of symptoms enumerated in a former paper, indicating the presence of the habit, and its debilitating influence upon the minds and bodies of the young.

Most of the cases of insanity from this cause commence early in life ; even confirmed and hopeless idiocy has been the melancholy consequence, before the victim had reached his twentieth year.

Of eighty males, insane, that have come under the observation of the writer, and who have been particularly examined and watched, with reference to ascertaining the proportion that practised masturbation, something more than a quarter were found to practise it ; and in about 10 per cent., a large proportion of which are idiotic, the disease is supposed to have arisen from this cause.

Would it be believed, if it should be said that the proportion will not vary essentially in the other sex ?

On a former occasion I observed that the absolute abandonment of the practice, even in those whose minds were unaffected by insanity, was not always easily effected. If no *voluntary* practice is continued, the habit may be so far established, and the susceptibility to the complaint be so great, that slight irritation will produce it, and that often for a long time after the danger is fully appreciated, and the victory over the propensity achieved so far as cautiously avoiding known and intentional indulgence. Nocturnal pollution and involuntary emissions come from slight causes and trifling irritation, but perpetuate for a long time all the train of unhappy influences that have been heretofore detailed. The unfortunate subject of this detestable vice, whose mental energy is unimpaired, and whose moral feelings are susceptible of impression, can be persuaded to abandon it, if the danger is set before him in its true light ; but hundreds can bear me testimony that the effects of it are long felt, and the involuntary excitement produced by dreams, lascivious companions, warm beds, and improper intercourse with corrupt society, has for a long time after had its influence in retarding complete recovery to health. With the insane we can have no such hopes, and no such prospects of cure. They will rarely form resolutions on the subject, and still more rarely adhere to them. Reason, the balance wheel of the mind, being denied them, they are obnoxious to the influence of all the propensities in a high degree.

After the practice of masturbation, as a voluntary habit, is entirely suspended, long and persevering efforts will be required to remove the effects from the system, and restore it to vigor and soundness. The individual himself must exercise great self-denial, and resolve to persevere with the means and overcome all obstacles that may be in his way, however formidable and difficult. The regimen to be adopted must be strictly adhered to on all occasions. As the inebriate would probably never conquer his appetite for alcoholic drink if he indulged once a month only—so in this habit, the occasional indulgence will thwart the whole plan of cure. The diet should be simple and nutritious ; the exercise should be moderate and gentle ; indulgence in bed should not be allowed, and the individual should always sleep alone. A mattress is

better than a soft bed. He should rise immediately upon waking, and never retire till the disposition to sleep comes strongly upon him. The cold bath is a valuable remedy ; a sea bath is better, and the shower bath often superior to either.

Narcotics, if there is a high degree of irritability in the system, are valuable remedies, of which conium, belladonna, hyoseyamus, nux vomica, and opium, may be used under different circumstances, combined or singly, according to the effects. Blisters and issues on the pudenda or perineum, promise well, and the different preparations of bark and iron, and other mineral tonics, should be used till all the effects of the habit are removed, till the propensity is fully conquered, and the constitution is restored to health and vigor.

W.

March, 1835.

#### QUACKERY.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

At no period of the world, even in the dark ages of superstition, has the profession of medicine been more thronged with impostors of the most daring effrontery than at the present time ; and it is astonishing that so many people, at this enlightened period of the world, when civilization and the arts and sciences are pouring their blessings in rich profusion around us, should be so easily duped into the grossest errors and imminent dangers, by these pretended *medical reformers*. Could a full history, for the last few years, of the sad results of successful quackery be presented to view, it would be a history of horror ! Neither pestilence, famine, nor the sword, even with the vile agency of Rum itself, could longer boast of its superior victories.

To charge men with the murder of their fellow beings in *cold blood*, is assuming a bold responsibility to oneself ; but the charge is true, and clear as the light which shines from the mid-day sun—and unless some efficient measures are resorted to by the medical profession, whose business it is, for the purpose of checking this increasing evil, and that speedily too, society will be cursed with a calamity more deplorable than any which has heretofore disturbed it, in any form or shape.

The question arises—What measures should be adopted ? I answer—Let every State, which has not, have its central medical society, with auxiliaries if necessary. Let this society institute a corresponding committee, who shall be required to communicate with every respectable physician within the borders of the State, for the purpose of obtaining, correctly, a statement of all the deaths which may have been caused by the agency of steam and lobelia, with all other effects which may have resulted from this barbarian practice ; and require the society to cause an annual or semi-annual report of the investigations of its committee to be made and published in the public gazettes. No honorable, high-minded physician would hesitate a moment to give a statement of such facts as might occur within the sphere of his knowledge.

In this way, only, can the extent of the evil be brought fully to the

view of the public. They will then see it in all its naked horrors and dangers ; and if then they will not profit by the facts, they would not be convinced though one should arise from the dead.

In the next place, let every honorable practitioner discountenance and denounce this system of quackery in toto, and determine not to visit any patient whatever who has suffered himself to be *tinkered upon* by these men, no matter how near to his grave he may have been hurried by such means.

Cannot some medical philanthropist suggest a better plan ? If so, duty to the profession, to his country, and to the human family at large, require that he should boldly announce it to the world. Let not delicacy forbid, when the welfare and even the lives of many of his fellow beings are in jeopardy.

I could mention many instances, Mr. Editor, of the shocking effects of this barbarous practice, at the bare relation of which, humanity would shudder ; and I cannot forbear, at least, the relation of one or two cases.

A lady in the county of —, in this State, was attacked last fall with bilious pleurisy, not so violent but that she might have been easily and speedily relieved by the proper remedies. Unfortunately, however, her husband had procured Thompson's book, and had studied it. Of course, he was well skilled in the cure of all diseases, *and he commenced on his wife*. He poured down the lobelia, and he steamed her from *day to day*, and still she grew worse ; her breathing became more difficult, and the poor woman became heavily oppressed ; her tongue assumed a fiery red, and her thirst was excessive. Yet not satisfied, her husband sent for his wife's brother, who lived in an adjoining county, and who was also a new-made doctor. He came ; the steam was redoubled and incessant : the poor woman grew weaker and weaker ; her voice became faint and feeble, she could not turn in her bed, and with difficulty could she move an arm, such was her exhaustion. Her countenance now assumed a ghastly glare, and she was evidently fast sinking. In this situation the *brother left her*, stating that the disease was such that it could not be cured. Through the interposition of friends, a physician was at length called. I know him well, and these facts were related to me by him. But he was called too late ; the fatal deed was done ; she was dead.

Again—a reverend gentleman who lived in the adjoining county to this, and who, for charity's sake, we would say had less of *brains* than *divinity*, became deluded and infatuated with Thompson's book. He praised it beyond measure ; it was the only safe guide for the cure of diseases ; and if it would do no good, it could produce no harm. This assertion was rather doubted by a neighbor who was present at the reverend gentleman's house. To prove his declaration true, however, he determined to take a portion of lobelia, that his neighbor might witness its harmless consequences. He prepared a dose about the middle of the day, which he triumphantly swallowed, and at twelve, that night, he was a corpse !

EDWARD DELONY.

Talbotton, Ga. March 4th, 1835.

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BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

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BOSTON, MARCH 25, 1835.

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## SMALLPOX IN THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

SINCE our last, two cases of smallpox have occurred in the persons of prisoners, at the House of Correction, located at South Boston. It seems that a man, recently sent there, had been in a house in Ann Street, from which a child with the disease had recently been carried to the Hospital; and having been immediately after sent to prison, carried the plague in his clothes. The Board of Health acted with praiseworthy vigilance, and ordered the patient to be forthwith removed to the Quarantine Hospital. Dr. Flint, the physician of the institution, has thoroughly vaccinated all the remaining prisoners, about one hundred and seventy, and the presumption is that the further progress of this dreadful malady is thus effectually arrested. Not a solitary case of smallpox remains in the city, so that our country friends have nothing to fear from this source in the metropolis, notwithstanding they may occasionally hear rumors at variance with this assertion.

Would it not be a wise regulation to require that every convict, on being received at a prison, should be vaccinated? Certainly it would obviate the extreme difficulty of managing this class of patients under the most trying circumstances.

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*Private Anatomical Lectures.*—We understand that Dr. M'Dowell, who is called the *back-wood's-man*, and who could not succeed, a few years since, in obtaining the place of *assistant* in the Ohio Medical College, is now lecturing on anatomy, in Philadelphia, to a class of one hundred and ten pupils. This is certainly both an evidence of his qualifications as a demonstrator, and his tact in teaching a very difficult science. It is passing strange that some of the schools, whose operations are actually embarrassed by having chained to them uninteresting, unpopular and unqualified lecturers, do not secure the services of men whose powers are of that high order that they would raise the sinking reputation of any institution to which they might be attached. If medical reform is ever commenced in the United States, the first step will be an overturning in the professorships of some of the colleges. The time is coming when stereotyped discourses will not be tolerated in teaching a progressive science; and the professor who conscientiously discharges his duty, will labor to keep pace with the constant improvements and discoveries so important to the health and happiness of mankind.

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*M. Dupuytren.*—This very distinguished operator died in Paris on the 8th of February, after a lingering illness of several months, aged 57. He has left the reputation of being the first operating surgeon in France, and probably in Europe. Domestic affliction preyed upon his mind for the last few years of his life. He has left Madame Beaumont, his only daughter, a fortune of nearly 7,000,000 francs, besides a legacy of 200,000

frances to found a chair of medico-chirurgical pathology. He has also left 100,000 crowns to found an asylum for twelve aged physicians. The annals of surgery do not afford the name of an individual so extensively known; and it is doubtful whether any man has existed who has performed so many operations in surgery, or who has exerted a greater professional influence throughout the civilized world.

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*Mortality of Philadelphia.*—Agreeably to the returns of 151 practitioners of midwifery, there were born in the city and liberties, in 1834, 3937 males and 3635 females,—making a total of 7572 births; and as the deaths were 5073, there was a difference of 2499 between the births and deaths. Six hundred and thirty-six died of consumption, one hundred and ninety-five of smallpox, seventeen of varioloid, and two hundred and sixty-seven of fever.

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*Medical Memorial.*—Twenty-eight physicians, of high standing, principally of Cincinnati, have addressed a memorial to the trustees of the Medical College of Ohio, beseeching them to reorganize the medical school of that State, by making a change in the faculty of the institution, so that it shall be more acceptable to the profession in the valley of the Mississippi, and more useful to medical science. Appended to the memorial is a letter from Dr. Drake, of that city, assuring the memorialists that he would not accept a chair, “unless such extensive changes were made as to create a prospect of immediate and permanent success.”

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*New Medical Books.*—Our correspondents are frequently inquiring what new medical publications are in the market; but having seen none of late, our answers cannot be of any advantage to them or to authors and publishers. Certainly no great effort will be made to spread a knowledge of the existence of such works, if they are not sent to our address. Those who occasionally ask, as a favor, an announcement, will recollect that unless we see the book, no great good can be done either party.

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*Medical Merit.*—Dr. Stagg, health officer of the city of Buffalo, N. Y. has recently been presented, by the citizens of that place, with a pair of silver pitchers, in remembrance of his faithful services at the time when the cholera prevailed, the last summer. This act of liberality and attention reflects great honor on those who have been mindful to acknowledge the services of their physician, when the danger has passed by.

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*Destruction of the Sheffield Medical School, Eng.*—Report says that the destruction of the college buildings, which is represented to have been a most ferocious business, originated in drunkenness. Soldiers were called out to quell the riot. Particulars will be given hereafter, if anything of interest is developed in the course of the examination going on by the magistrates.

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*Smallpox in New Hampshire.*—We are informed that in several towns in New Hampshire, particularly in Candia, the smallpox exists. The only course for the security of the public health is vaccination. It is

strange that the select men and school committees of all country towns do not require a general inoculation, at least once in every year, that all new-born children and new comers from other places may be unsusceptible of receiving this pest of the human race.

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"*Something Rotten in Denmark.*"—From the character of several brief communications, which have most mysteriously found their way to the editor's table, within a few days, it is obvious that there is, at no great distance, some medical machinery out of order. By an unalterable resolution, no kind of attention will be paid to anonymous articles, when their object is manifestly for the purpose of exciting a spirit of hostility and unkindness either towards an individual or a public charity. Instead of fanning a flame of discord, and contributing to raise a storm which could not be easily allayed, we shall endeavor to maintain peace and good fellowship, by keeping wholly aloof from squabbles for distinction. True merit will certainly be discovered;—and a man actually possessing extraordinary capacity and talents, can no more be kept long out of his appropriate sphere, than a volcano could be smothered by a napkin.

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*On the Use of Soot in Diseases of the Eyes.*—The *Gazette Médicale*, for January, 1831, contains some facts collected by M. Carron-du-Villards favorable to the use of soot in diseases of the eyes. M. Baudelocque, physician to the Hopital des Enfants, has also extolled this article in scrofulous ophthalmia. The following is the formula of the first-named practitioner:—Soot, 3 ij.; dissolve in boiling water, filter and evaporate to dryness. The residue, which is very brilliant, is to be dissolved in boiling very strong white vinegar, with the addition of 24 grains extract of roses to 3 xij. of liquid. Some drops of this solution in a glass of water form a good resolvent collyrium. M. Carron-du-Villards recommends granulations of the cornea to be touched with a very fine brush wet with the following mixture. Take of Opium, 3 ij.; Cloves, 3 j.; Washed Soot, 3 iv.; Cinnamon water, 3 viij.; Alcohol, 3 iv. To be digested for six days in a warm place, and then expressed and filtered.—*Bulletin Général de Therapeutique.*—*Amer. Journ. of the Med. Sciences.*

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*Muriate of Ammonia in large doses in Phthisis Pulmonalis.*—A young man, aged about 28, entered Catharine Hospital at Stuttgart, laboring under cough and purulent expectoration, with which he had been affected nine months. He also had occasional night sweats, and was besides affected with fever, disposition to vomit, and emaciation. There was pectoriloque in the subclavicular region. He took a drachm of muriate of ammonia every two hours, notwithstanding the diarrhœa, colic, and great prostration of strength. A gradual improvement of all the symptoms took place; and after persisting in this course for three months, during which time he took a pound of muriate of ammonia, all the symptoms, and even the pectoriloque, had disappeared. His improvement continued, and he bore the cold of winter well, until about the first of February, 1830, when he experienced an attack of inflammation of the lungs, which was dissipated without medical treatment.—*Otto's Bibliothek.*—*N. American Archives.*

**NOTICE.**—The following gentlemen are authorized to receive money due for the Medical Journal. Although we prefer, in all cases where it is convenient, that a direct communication be maintained between subscribers and the Journal office, yet as it may accommodate some to make a settlement nearer home, this list of agents is published:—Duren & Thatcher, booksellers, Bangor, Me.; Luke Howe, Esq. P. M. Jaffrey, N. H.; Israel Hinckley, Esq. P. M. Topsham, Vt.; Mr. Joseph Balch, Jr. apothecary, Providence, R. I.; Charles Hooker, M.D. New Haven, Ct.; Mr. W. C. Little, bookseller, Albany, N. Y.; T. O. H. Crowel, Esq. P. M. Catskill, N. Y.; Samuel Freeman, Esq. P. M. Williamstown, Oswego Co. N. Y.; W. A. Gillespie, M.D. Ellisville, River Bank P. O. Louisa Co. Va.; Mr. L. Dwelle, Augusta, Geo.; Hedge & Lyman, Montreal. L. C.; Mr. Joseph Tardif, Quebec, L. C.; Mr. L. E. Van Ruskirk, Halifax, N. S.

These subscribers who have not paid for the last year are requested to forward the amount due, including the present year, directed to the publisher or to one of the above-named agents.

**DIED.**—In New York, Dr. Samuel Osborne, 61.—Dr. George Wartz, of Morris Co., N. J. 58.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending March 21, 33. Males, 18—Females, 15. Of typhous fever, 3—dropsy on the brain, 2—measles, 1—lung fever, 4—brain fever, 1—consumption, 5—child-bed, 2—cancer, 1—chronic consumption, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 2—decay of nature, 1—intemperance, 1—bowel complaint, 1—inflammation, 1—pleurisy fever, 1—old age, 1—cramp in the stomach, 1—unknown, 1—diarrhœa, 1—canker, 1.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### VACCINE VIRUS.

PHYSICIANS in any part of the United States may hereafter be furnished with pure vaccine virus, by addressing the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal—*inclosing one dollar*. Letters must be post-paid, or they will not be taken from the Post Office. The virus will invariably be sent by the first mail, unless some other mode of conveyance is directed. Ten charged quills, an ample quantity for meeting any sudden emergency, and certainly sufficient to propagate a supply from, will be securely packed in a letter. The gentleman who has undertaken to keep the virus, will faithfully supply that which is positively genuine and recently taken.

*Boston, March 4, 1834.*

### PHILOSOPHICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL APPARATUS.

N. B. CHAMBERLAIN, No. 9 School St. Boston, manufactures Philosophical, Astronomical, Pneumatic, Hydrostatic, and Electrical Apparatus, Mechanical Powers, &c. of beautiful workmanship, designed for Lecture Rooms and public instruction in Schools, Academies and Colleges. Portable models of the Steam Engine, put in motion by a spirit lamp, afforded at a very reasonable rate, can be obtained at any time, by addressing the advertiser by mail.

*Boston, February 4, 1835.*

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### MODELS OF THE EYE AND EAR.

BROWN & PEIRCE, 87 Washington Street, up stairs, manufacture beautiful models of the human Eye and Ear, for the use of students in anatomy and operating surgeons. The eye, particularly, is considered exceedingly useful, as the anatomy, and the philosophy of vision, are plainly demonstrated. The internal ear is magnified two feet in length, from the meatus internus to the external ear—giving a diameter of four inches to the semicircular canals. These models are the invention of Dr. J. V. C. SMITH, formerly Professor of Anatomy at the Berkshire Medical Institution. Jan 21—1f

### TO PHYSICIANS.

A good situation for a physician is about to be vacated in a flourishing village in Worcester County, and within a few miles of the town of Worcester. The place may be secured for a moderate consideration if applied for soon. Applications made to the editor of this Journal, post-paid, will be promptly attended to.

March 4.

An eligible country situation for a medical practitioner, in one of the eastern counties of Massachusetts, for sale. One desirous of purchasing, may obtain further information by applying at this office. Letters from applicants, post-paid, directed to the editor, will reach the advertiser without delay.

February 18.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR. at 184 Washington Street, corner of Franklin Street, to whom all communications must be addressed, *post-paid*. It is also published in Monthly Parts, on the 1st of every month, each Part containing the weekly numbers of the preceding month, stitched in a cover.—Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, and \$4.00 if not paid within the year.—Every seventh copy, *gratis*.—Postage the same as for a newspaper.